(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Fall in the prices of petrochemical raw materials

740. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr it is a fact that international prices of petro-chemical raw materials for synthetic industry have fallen considerably;

(b) what has been the quantums of fall in prices in respect of paraxylene, Mono Ethylene Glycol (MEG), DMT and PTA during the last one year;

(c) what are the present ruling prices of items referred above in part (b) in the international market; and

(d) whether with a view to safeguard the indigenous industry, Government have revolved to increase import duty on these materials with a view to compare favourably with the fair selling prices of the domestic produce?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Prices of petrochemical raw material for synthetic fibre often fluctuate in international market.

(b) Comparison of international prices of MEG, paraxylene, DMT and PTA is as follows (as published).

(US$/T)

	Jan '89	Jan '90
Paraxylene	900=950	500=510
DMT	850=900	600=650
PTA	685=715	680=715
MEG	1400=1500	485=507

(c) Present + ruling prices as published of items referred above are as indicated below:

	(US$/T)
Paraxylene	420=460
MEG	440=500
DMT	600=635
PTA	674=710

(d) Interest of indigenous industry is safeguarded with the help of import policy and approriate tariff mechanism.

Mysterious disease in an Orissa village

741. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that male members of Pabla village in Dhenkenal district of Orissa are dying every day due to a mysterious disease; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b). Information is being collected from the Government of Orissa and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Cost and fair price of DMT produced by Bombay dyeing

742. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost and fair price study of DMT produced by Bombay Dyeing have been carried out by the BICP or by the Cost Accounts Branch as has been done in the case of DMT manufactured by the IPCL and PTA manufactured by RIL; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir, BICP has carried out Cost study of all DMT producers in 1986, which was subsequently updated in 1989.

(b) Does not arise.

Banning the Use of Brominated Vegetable Oil

@743. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI
SHRI N. E. BALARAM
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:
DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press reports that in spite of the total ban imposed by Government on April 15, 1988, on the use of Brominated Vegetable Oil (BVO) in any manufactured food product or beverage under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, Indian soft drink manufacturers are still using the additive, which has been found to be extremely harmful to human being by international organisatoins like the WHO and FAO; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the steps proposed to be taken by Government to ensure the compliance of the ban order?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b). The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued a notification under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 on 15th April, 1988 deleting Brominated Vegetable Oil from the list of permitted emulsifiers and stabilisers. Later on, on the basis of advice of Experts, use of this chemical was extended uto 15th April, 1990. Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Food Health Authorities of States/Union Territories have been urged upon to ensure that all food products manufactured and marketed in the country after the stipulated date, are free from this chemical.

@Previously unstarred Question 178, transferred from the 3rd May, 1990.

Declining Rate of Production and Sales by Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta

744. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the rate of production and sales of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta has sharply declined over the last one year;

(b) whether this is so because the mangaement has failed to provide raw materials and other inputs regularly;

(c) whether the marketing wing of the Corporation has also failed to keep their commitment to the buyers, particularly those in the Public Sector;

(d) whether the erstwhile employees of other tyre manufacturing companies, now in the sales team of TCI, have been working against the interest of the TCI;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what action Government proposed to be taken to upgrade the management of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No. Sir, The company's production and sales for 1988-89 and 1989-90 are as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

	1988-89	1989-90
Production	36.52	36.17
Sales	47.86*	50.08*

*Inclusive of excise duty.